



SHADOW FALL
PART 3 OF 4

ISSUE 61

SEGA®

SONIC UNIVERSE™

WHEN STRIKES--

~~FOR IDEAS~~

*Trail
Yalley!
-Jim
Amash
HERP*

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Shadow and Team Dark confront the evil Black Arms aliens to save the world from a second invasion!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

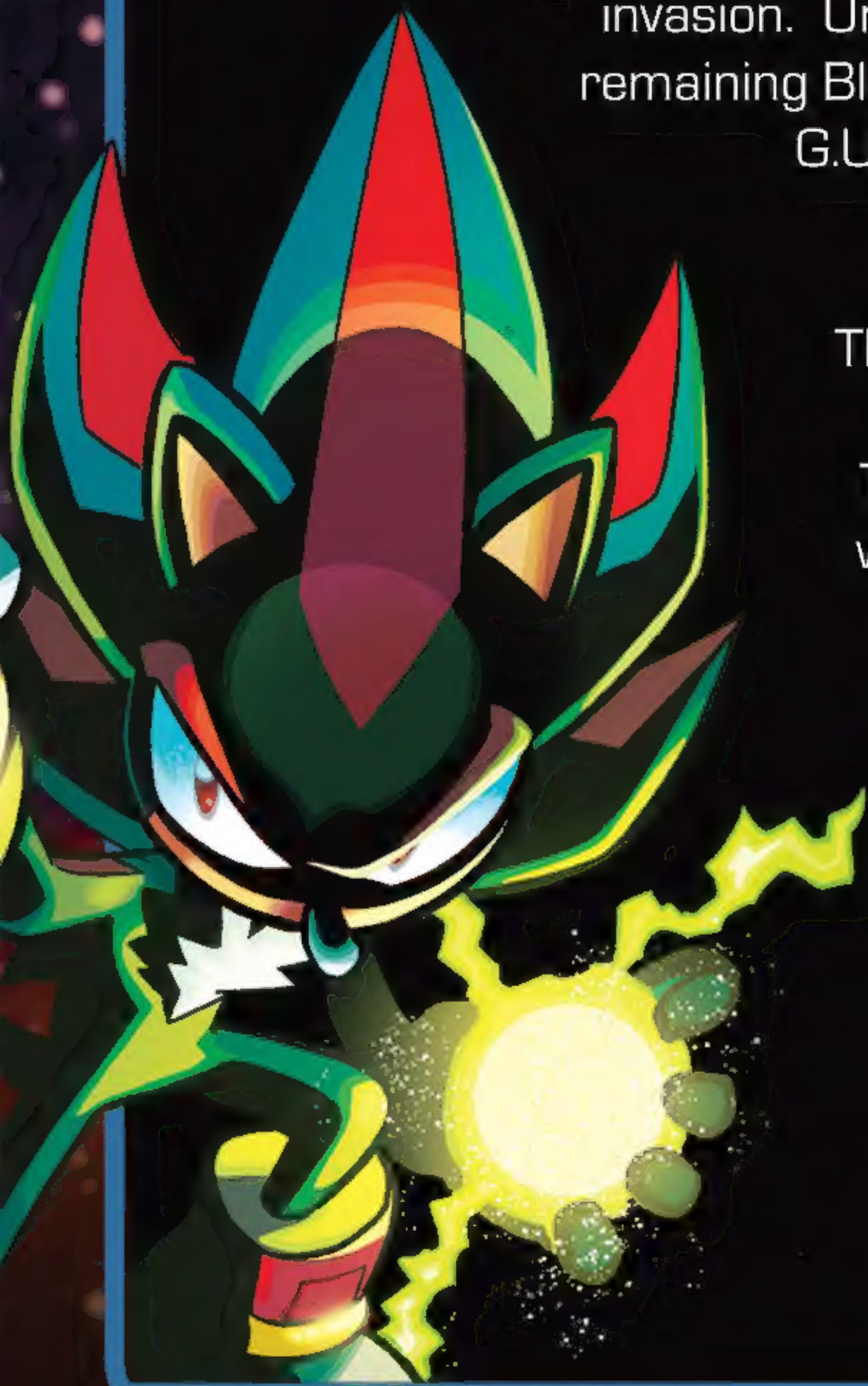


TEAM DARK NO MORE?!

With the world shattered, the last thing it needs is an alien invasion. Unfortunately, Black Death is leading the last remaining Black Arms aliens to do just that! Therefore, G.U.N. sent Team Dark and Spider Troupe out in a preemptive attack.

The mission has not gone well. Shadow was separated from the others, leaving Spider Troupe without a guide. Rouge and Omega were left to lead them as best they could to deliver the crucial nuclear bomb to the heart of the Black Comet.

Meanwhile, Shadow was confronted by Eclipse – a Black Arms alien bred specifically to counter him. Together, Black Death and Eclipse managed to psychically overpower Shadow. The ultimate lifeform now serves the Black Arms, and is currently about to destroy his friends...



WHO'S WHO



**SHADOW
THE HEDGEHOG**
THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM



ROUGE THE BAT
SUPER SPY



E-123 OMEGA
ROGUE BADNIK



**ECLIPSE
THE DARKLING**
EVIL ALIEN

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SHADOW FALL

PART THREE: A MATTER OF TRUST

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ROUGE
G.U.N. SPY

INSIDE THE NEW BLACK COMET...

SHADOW!

DESIST IMMEDIATELY
OR I WILL BE FORCED
TO DESTROY YOU!

SHADOW
MIND-CONTROLLED
ALIEN HYBRID

OMEGA
WALKING
ARSENAL





DEEPER IN THE NEW
BLACK COMET...

Hrm... SHADOW IS
SHOWING CONSIDERABLE
RESISTANCE TO MY MIND-
CONTROL. NO WONDER
BLACK DOOM COULDN'T
CONTROL HIM.*



BLACK DEATH
BLACK ARMS'
LEADER



*SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG
--THE GAME

I LET MY THIRST FOR
REVENGE CLOUD MY JUDGE-
MENT. SHADOW WAS MEANT
TO BE OUR CHAMPION,
LEADING US TO A SWIFT
CONQUEST OF THE PLANET.
INSTEAD, HE **BETRAYED** US,
AND NEARLY WIPED OUT
OUR KIND.

I HAD HOPED TO INVADE
THE WORLD QUICKLY AND
QUIETLY, LET ECLIPSE
NEUTRALIZE SHADOW AND
USE THE DARK ARMS
PROJECT TO EMPOWER MY
WARRIORS.



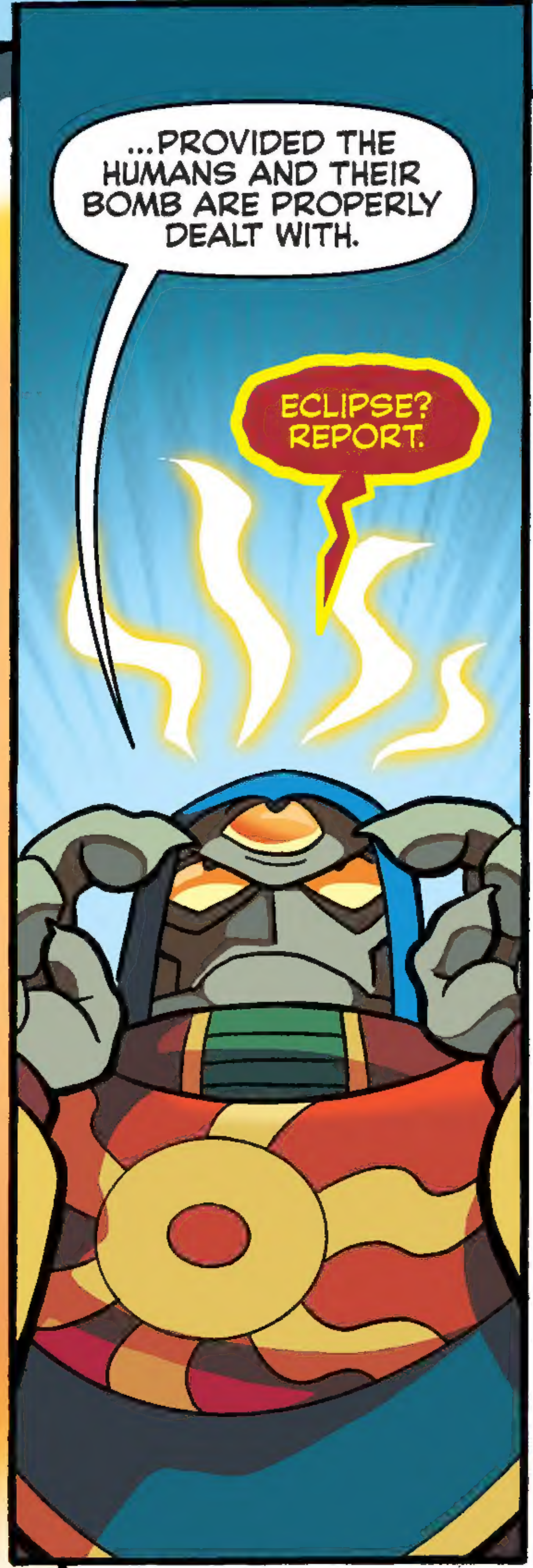
INSTEAD, WE
WERE INVADED, AND I
LET ECLIPSE CONVINCE
ME TO WASTE PRECIOUS
TIME TRYING TO
CONTROL SHADOW.

USING SHADOW TO
DESTROY THE WORLD HE'S
SWORN TO PROTECT **WOULD**
BE SWEET, BUT... EITHER HE
WILL DESTROY HIS FRIENDS,
OR THEY WILL DESTROY
HIM. I CAN WORK WITH
EITHER SCENARIO...



...PROVIDED THE
HUMANS AND THEIR
BOMB ARE PROPERLY
DEALT WITH.

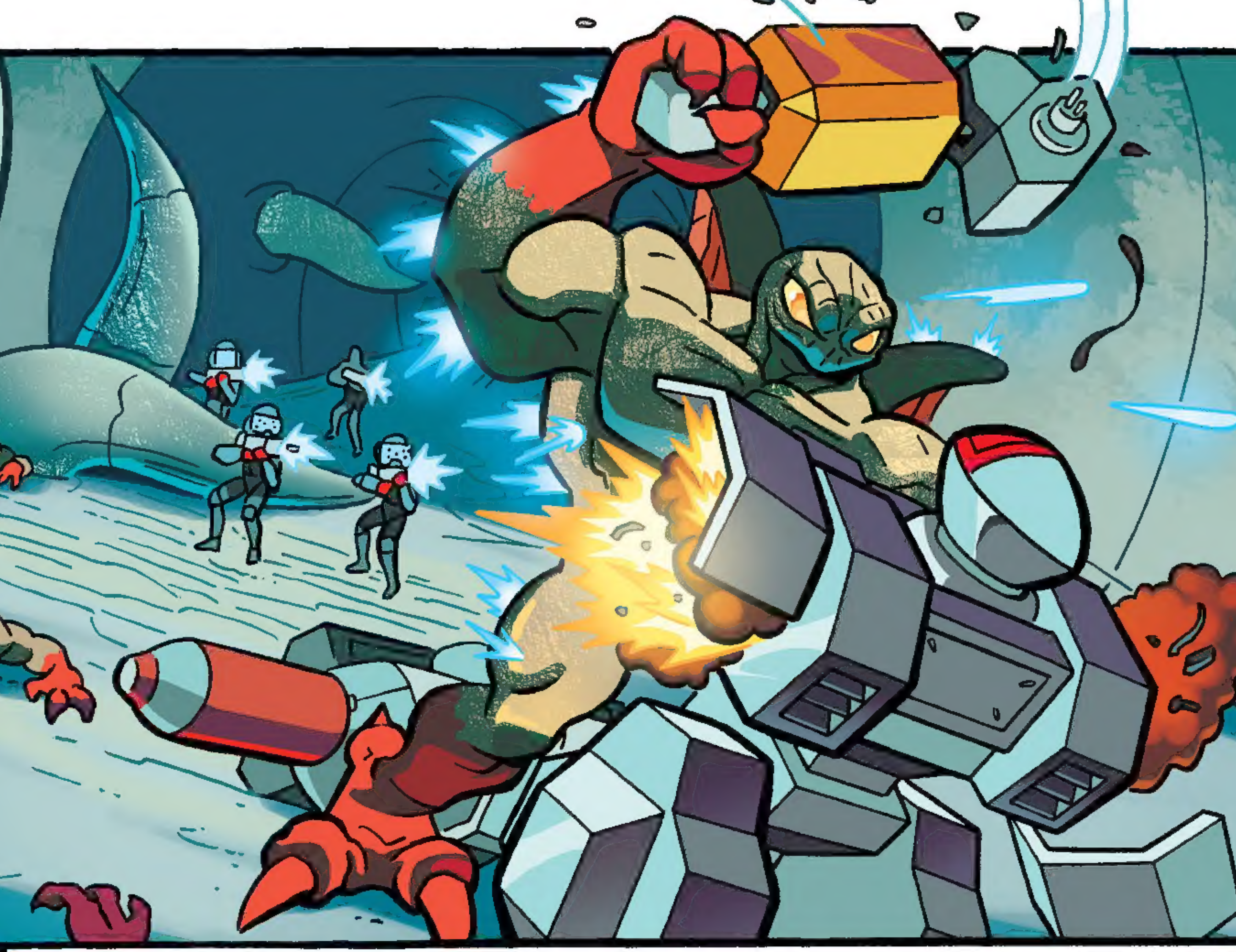
ECLIPSE?
REPORT.



ELSEWHERE ON THE
NEW BLACK COMET...

THE HUMANS ARE
BEING...PERSISTENT.
WE'VE ALMOST SECURED
THE NUCLEAR DEVICE. SO
IF YOU'LL LET ME GET
BACK TO WORK...

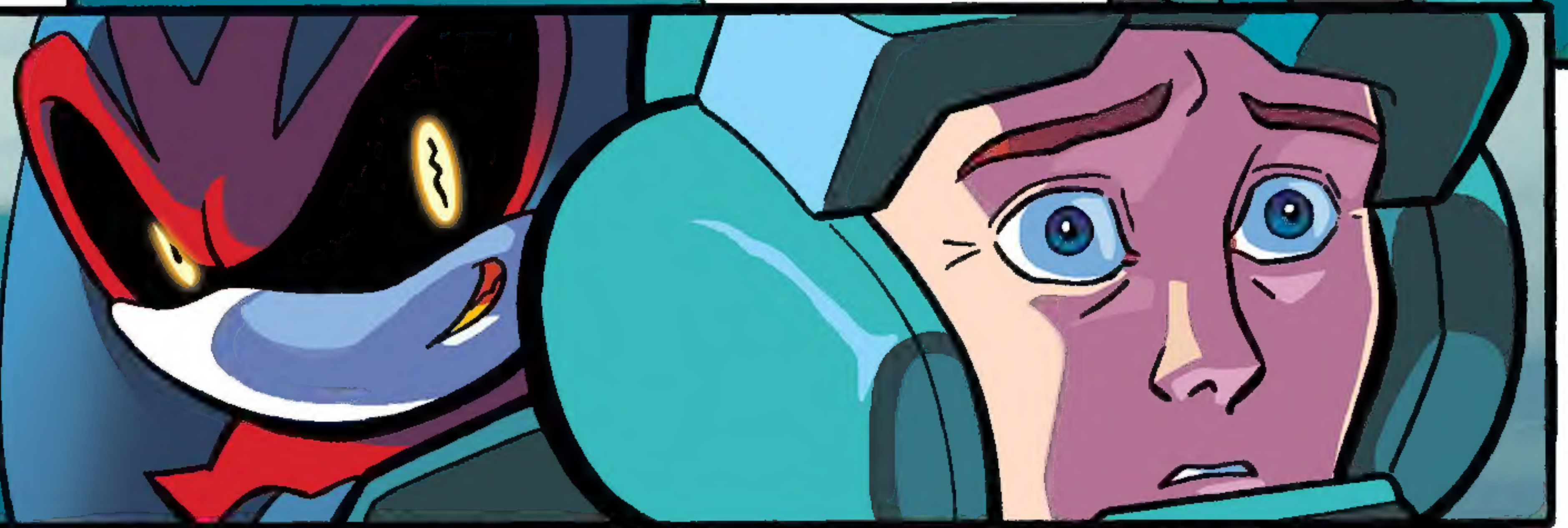
ECLIPSE
ULTIMATE
ALIEN
LIFEFORM



CPT. ANDREWS
SPIDER TROUPE
LEADER

LODGE!
COOPER!
YOU'RE WITH ME!
WE'RE GOING TO
SECURE THE NUKE!

YOU
AND WHAT
ARMY?



DO NOT
KILL THE
HUMANS.

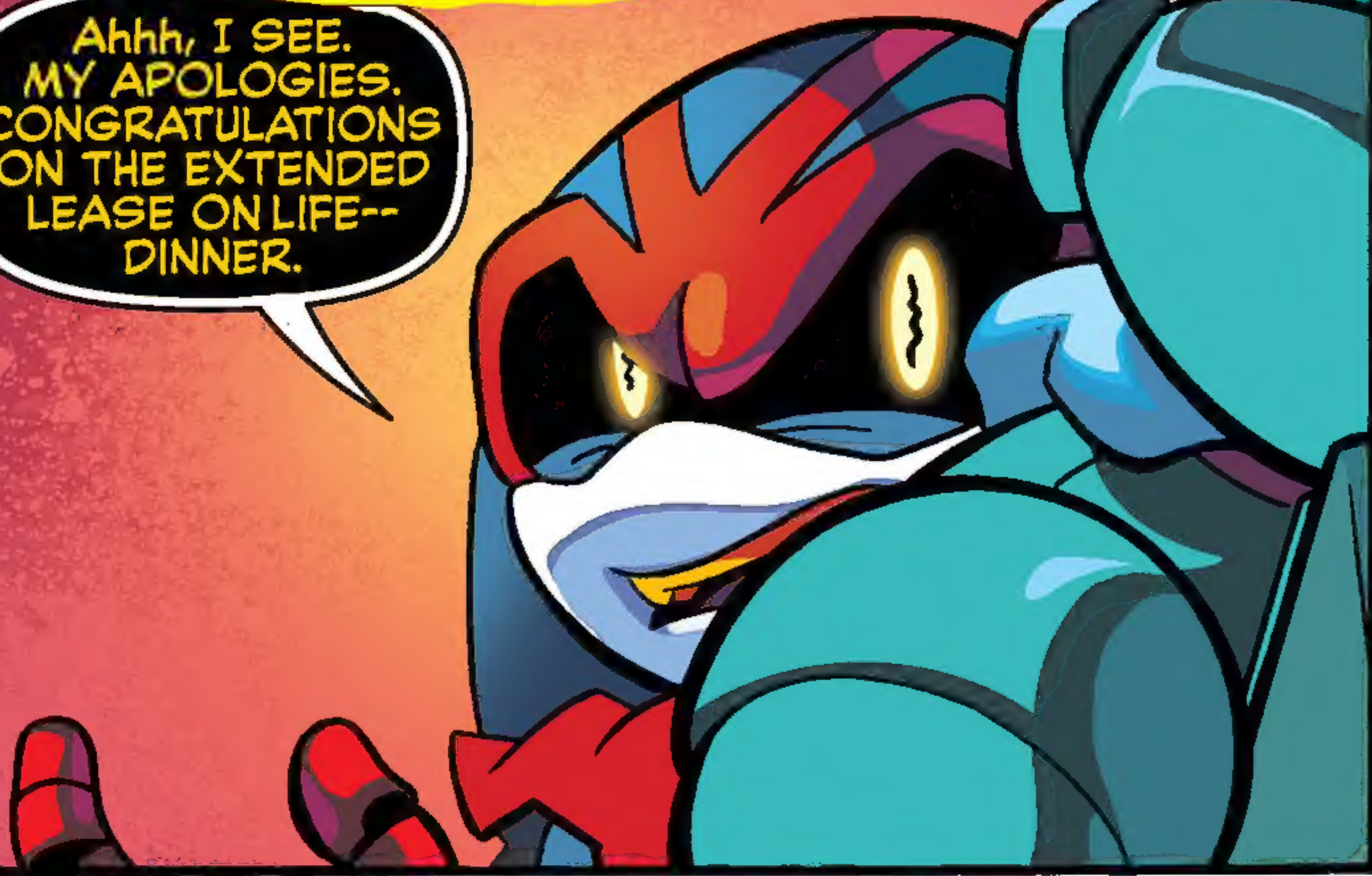
THE CORRIDOR IS
ALMOST LITERALLY
CARPETED WITH MY
FALLEN BROTHERS.

DON'T TELL ME
TO SHOW THEM
MERCY NOW.



I AM THE ONE GIVING THE
ORDERS, ECLIPSE. THE HUMANS
WILL PROVIDE BETTER NOURISH-
MENT FOR THE YOUNG IF
THEY'RE EATEN ALIVE.

Ahhh, I SEE.
MY APOLOGIES.
CONGRATULATIONS
ON THE EXTENDED
LEASE ON LIFE--
DINNER.



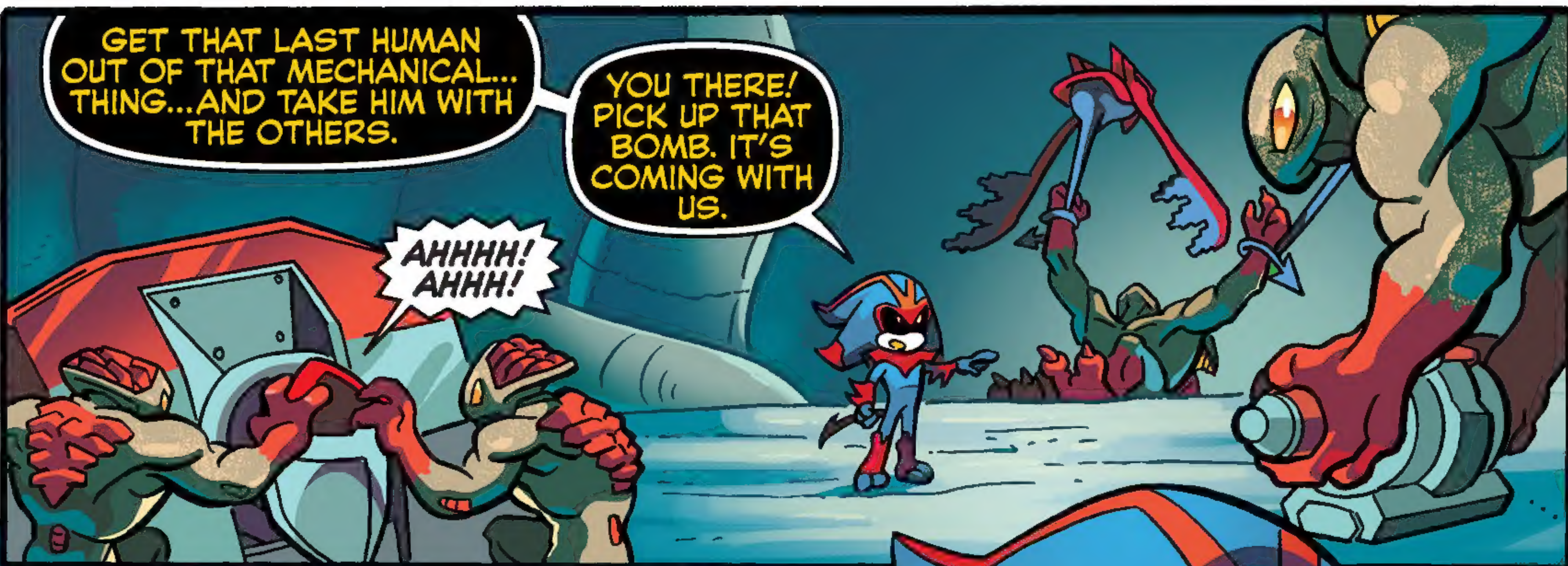
HANDLE THE HUMANS
WITH CARE, BROTHERS.
WE DON'T WANT THE NEXT
GENERATION'S MEAL TOO
TENDERIZED. HAHA!



GET THAT LAST HUMAN
OUT OF THAT MECHANICAL...
THING...AND TAKE HIM WITH
THE OTHERS.

YOU THERE!
PICK UP THAT
BOMB. IT'S
COMING WITH
US.

AHHHH!
AHHHH!



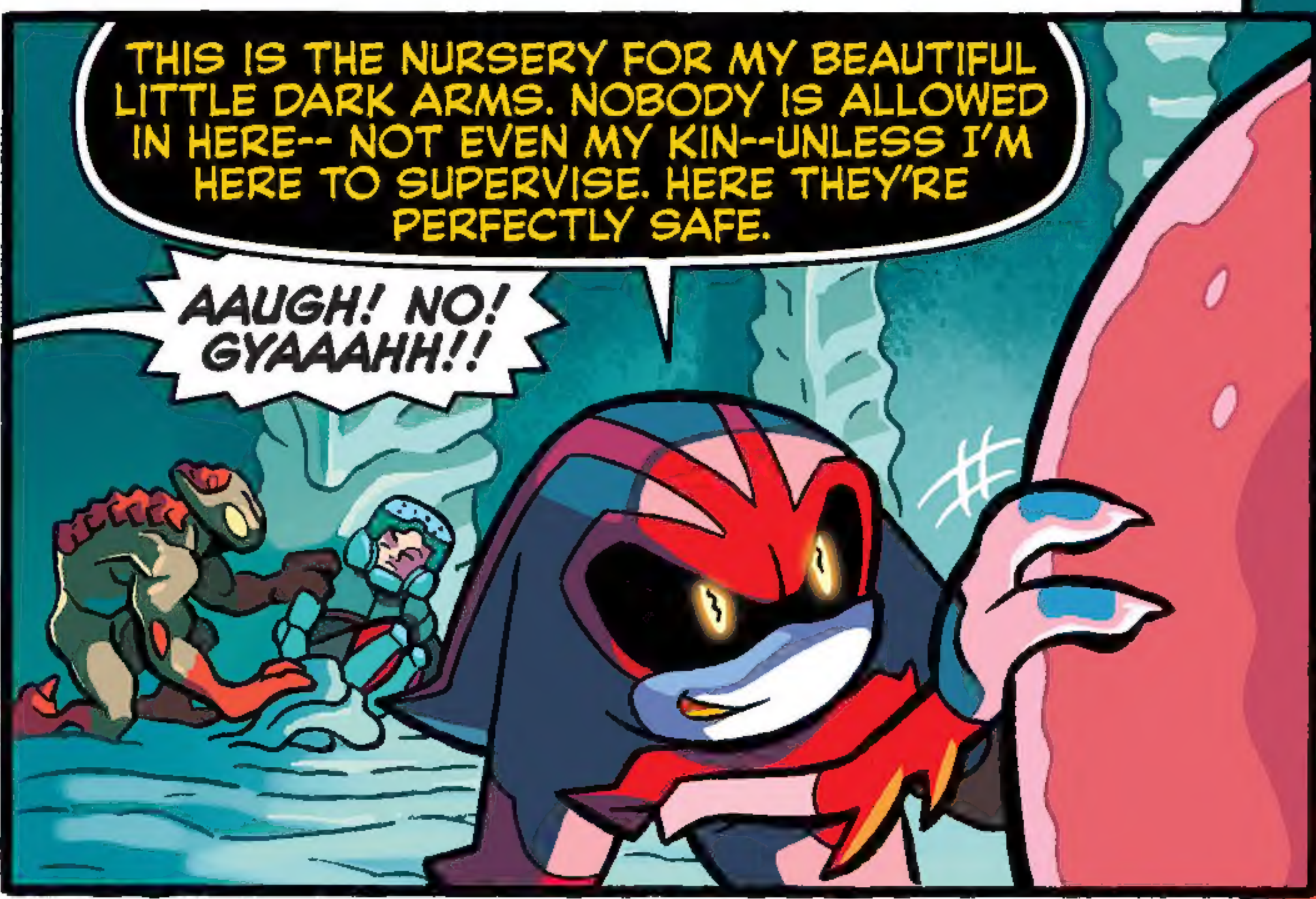
"WE'RE TAKING THEM
TO THE MOST SECURE
PLACE ON THE COMET!"





AHHHH!
AHHH!

BEHOLD, LONE
CONSCIOUS AND TERRIFIED
HUMAN! THE FRUITS OF MY
LABOR! THE FUTURE OF
THE BLACK ARMS!



THIS IS THE NURSERY FOR MY BEAUTIFUL
LITTLE DARK ARMS. NOBODY IS ALLOWED
IN HERE-- NOT EVEN MY KIN--UNLESS I'M
HERE TO SUPERVISE. HERE THEY'RE
PERFECTLY SAFE.

AAUGH! NO!
GYAAAHH!!



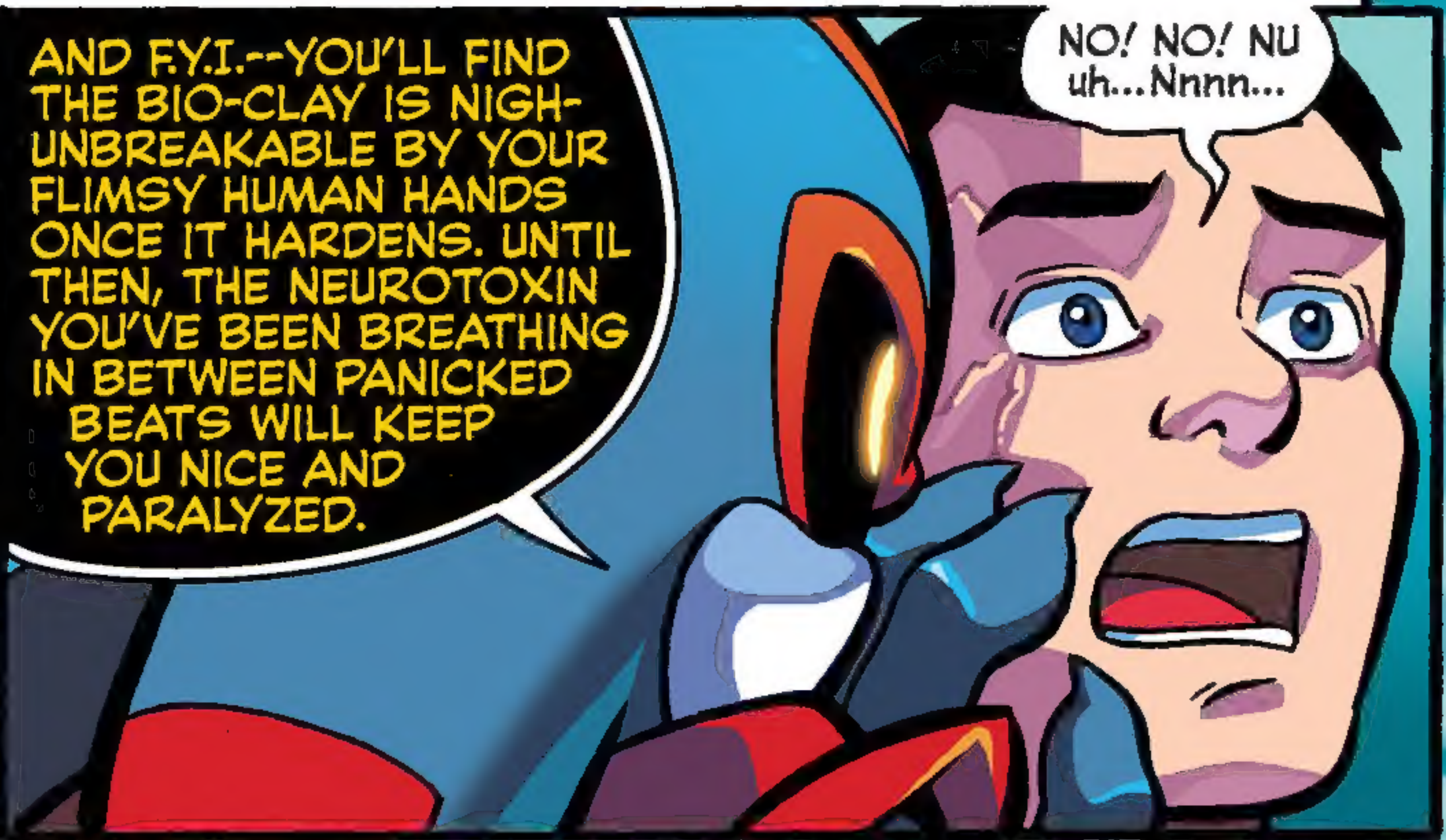
TODAY IS
JUST COMING
UP ACES!

I WONDER
HOW DEAR
"BROTHER"
SHADOW IS
DOING...?



AS ARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS--
IN A WAY, YOU'LL BE THE MUCH-NEEDED
FIRST MEAL FOR MY LITTLE DARLINGS.
THINK OF IT--YOU'LL BE GIVING MY
KIND A SECOND CHANCE TO
THRIVE.

AHHHH!
AHHH!



AND F.Y.I.--YOU'LL FIND
THE BIO-CLAY IS NIGH-
UNBREAKABLE BY YOUR
FLIMSY HUMAN HANDS
ONCE IT HARDENS. UNTIL
THEN, THE NEUROTOXIN
YOU'VE BEEN BREATHING
IN BETWEEN PANICKED
BEATS WILL KEEP
YOU NICE AND
PARALYZED.

NO! NO! NU
uh...Nnnn...



THOK

VWIP

TELEPORTING!

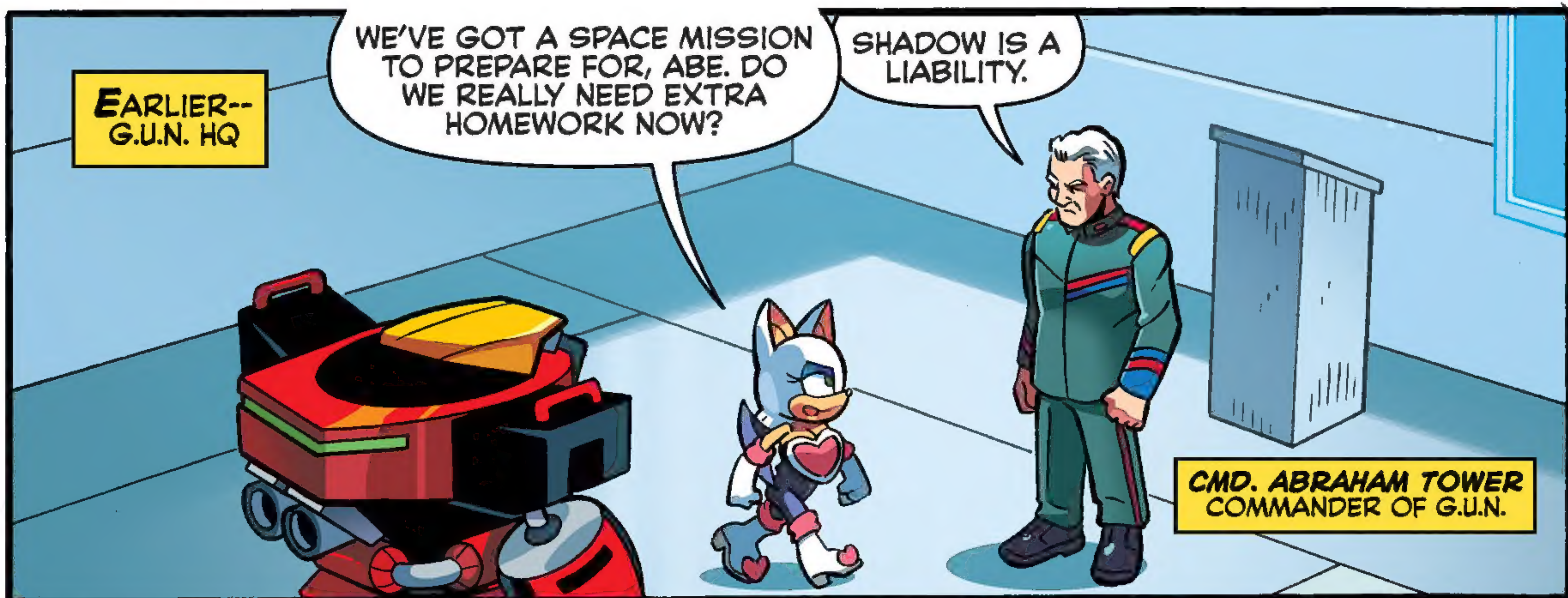
GOT HIM!

THOOM

WARNING! WE NEED TO FINISH THIS BEFORE WE HAVE TO--

I KNOW! I KNOW! I'M THINKING...

"ROUGE? OMEGA? A WORD PLEASE."

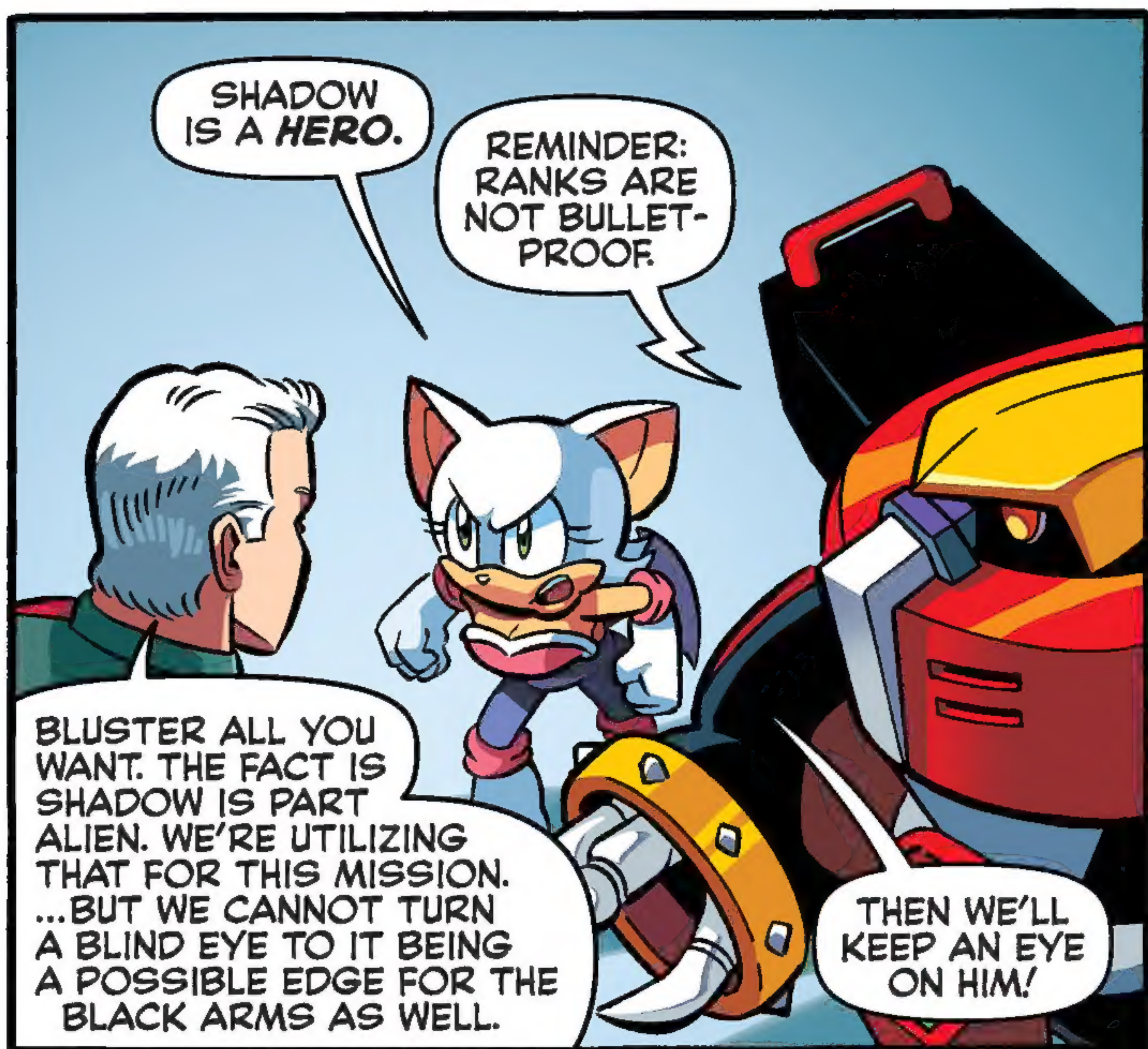


EARLIER--
G.U.N. HQ

WE'VE GOT A SPACE MISSION TO PREPARE FOR, ABE. DO WE REALLY NEED EXTRA HOMEWORK NOW?

SHADOW IS A LIABILITY.

CMD. ABRAHAM TOWER
COMMANDER OF G.U.N.



SHADOW IS A *HERO*.

REMINDER: RANKS ARE NOT BULLET-PROOF.

BLUSTER ALL YOU WANT. THE FACT IS SHADOW IS PART ALIEN. WE'RE UTILIZING THAT FOR THIS MISSION. ...BUT WE CANNOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO IT BEING A POSSIBLE EDGE FOR THE BLACK ARMS AS WELL.

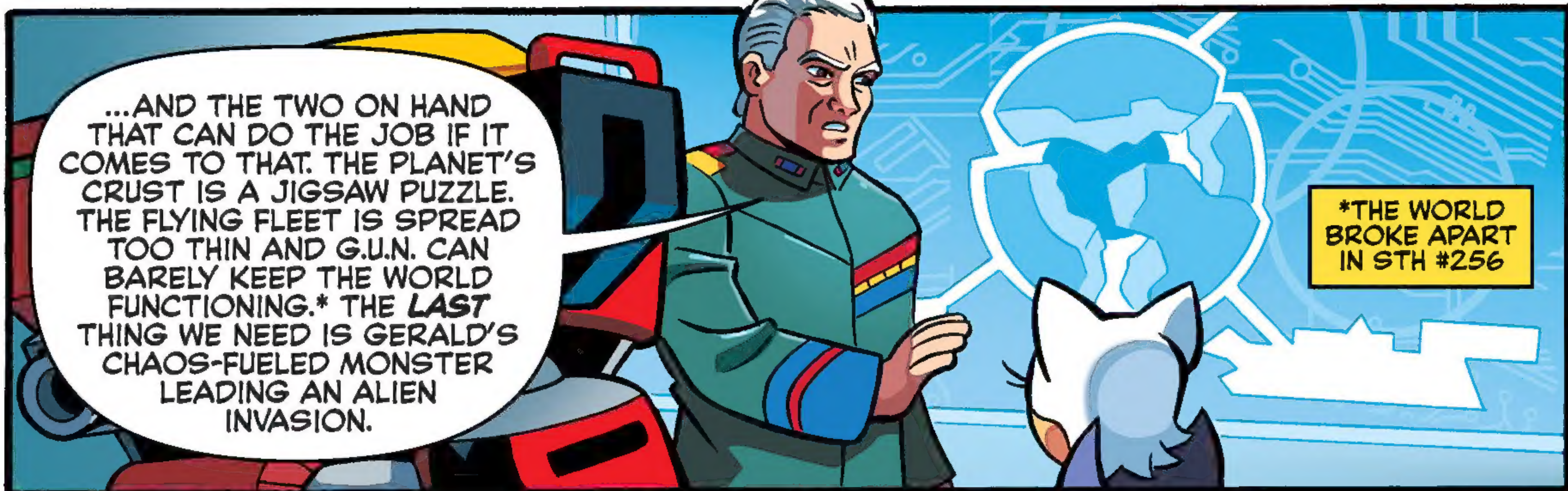
THEN WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!



YES. AND IF HE GOES ROGUE, YOU'RE GOING TO NEUTRALIZE HIM.

WHAT?! I... HOW DARE YOU?! WE'RE--!

THE TWO WHO KNOW HIM THE BEST...

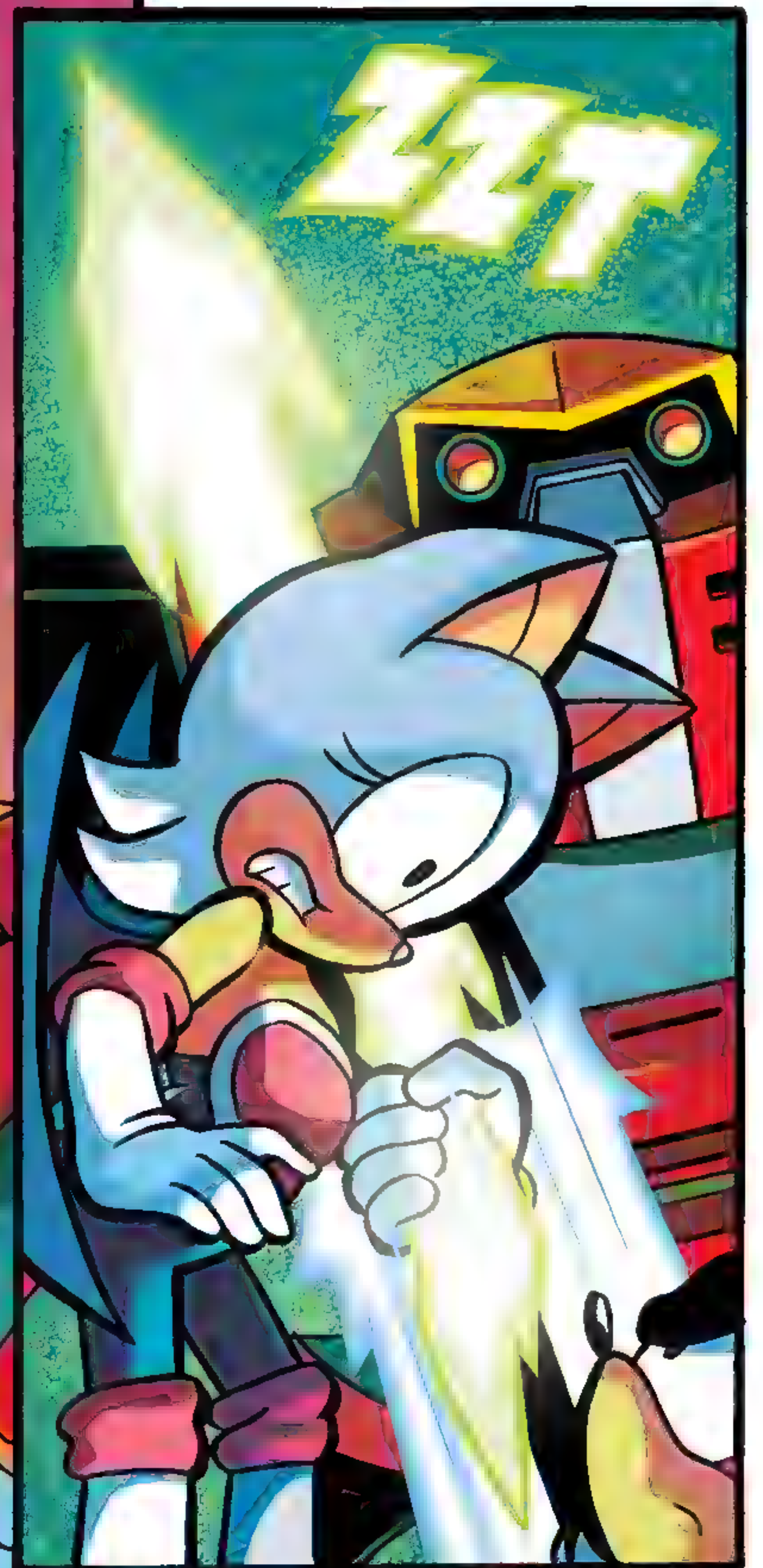
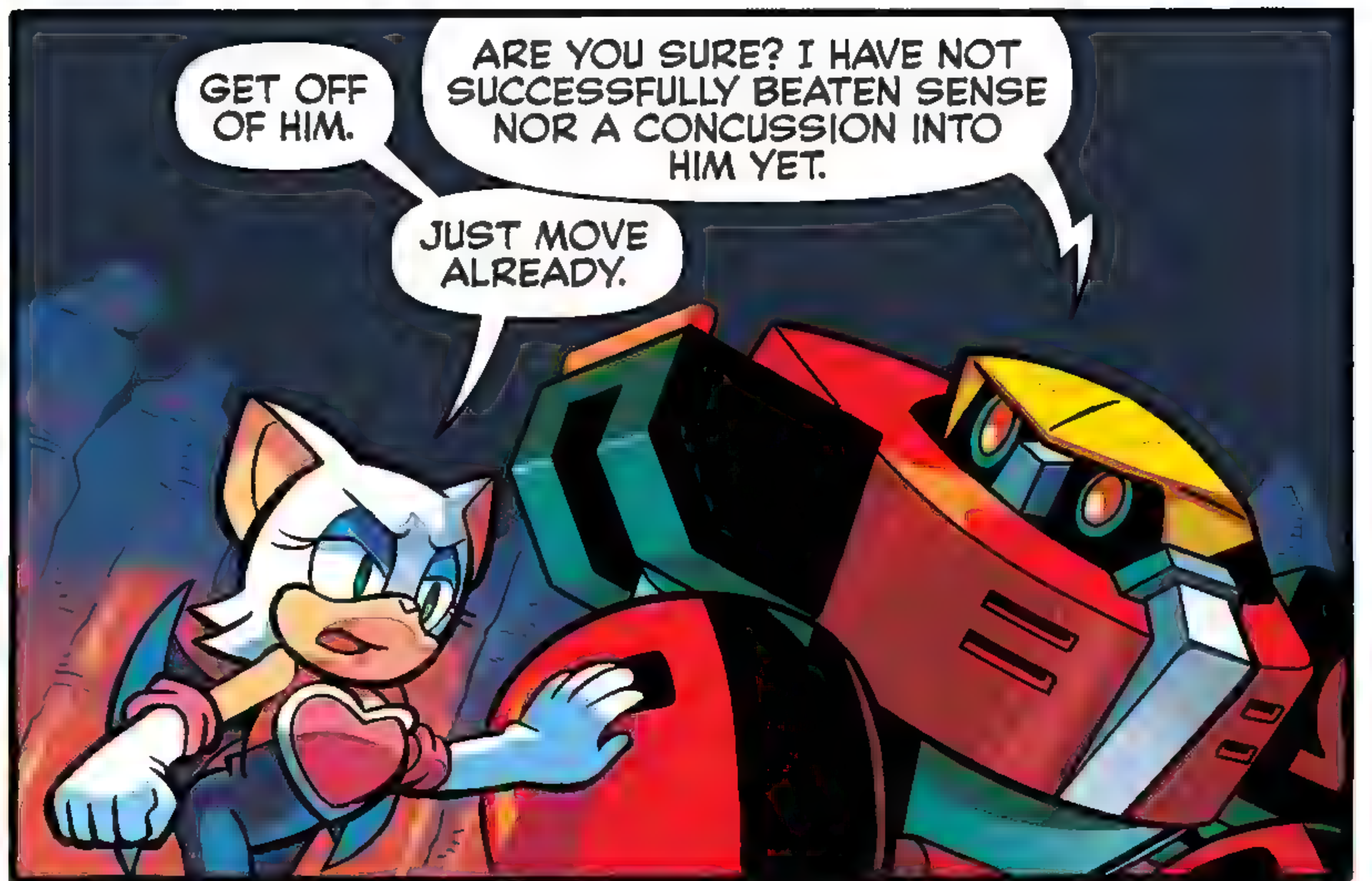


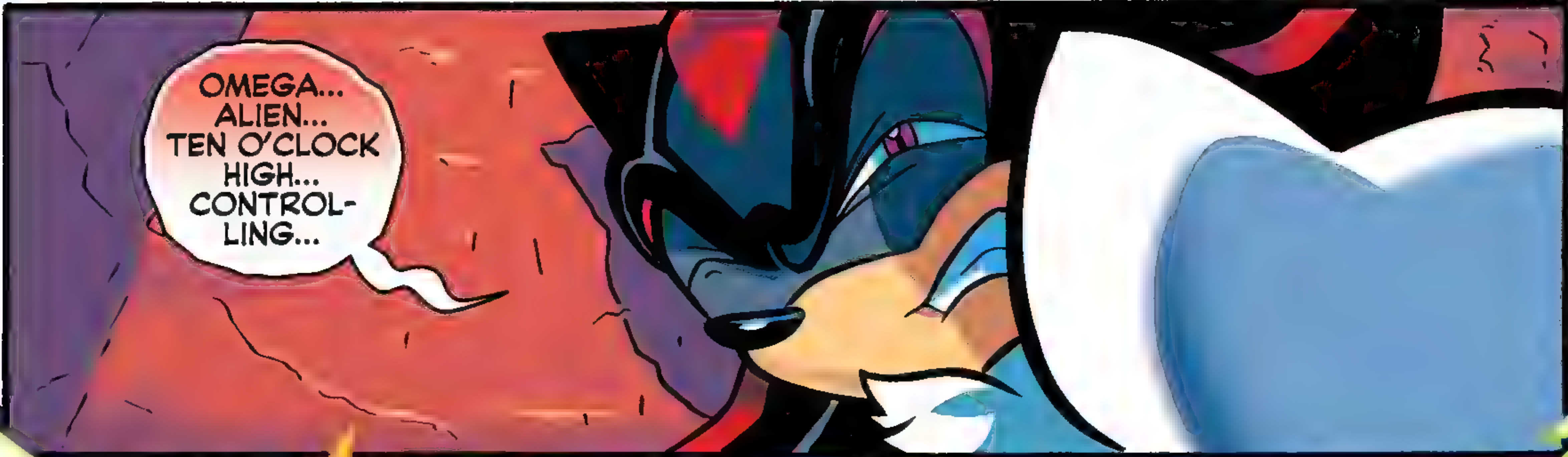
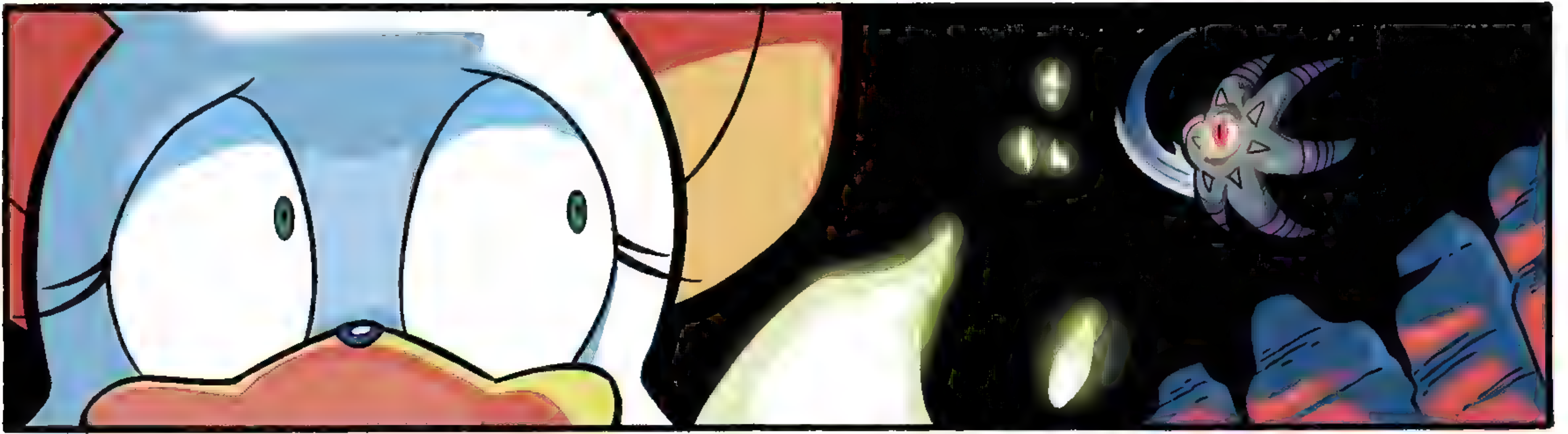
...AND THE TWO ON HAND THAT CAN DO THE JOB IF IT COMES TO THAT. THE PLANET'S CRUST IS A JIGSAW PUZZLE. THE FLYING FLEET IS SPREAD TOO THIN AND G.U.N. CAN BARELY KEEP THE WORLD FUNCTIONING.* THE **LAST** THING WE NEED IS GERALD'S CHAOS-FUELED MONSTER LEADING AN ALIEN INVASION.

*THE WORLD BROKE APART IN STH #256



LISTEN. I'VE...MADE MY PEACE WITH SHADOW. I BEAR HIM NO ILL WILL. I DON'T LIKE SENDING SOLDIERS TO THEIR DEATHS. BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO ONE LIFE VERSUS MILLIONS, THERE'S NO CHOICE. I TRUST YOU TWO WILL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.







DID THAT CLEAR YOUR HEAD?

...THEY'RE GONE NOW. I'M BACK IN CONTROL. CONTROL I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LOST.



I NEARLY...

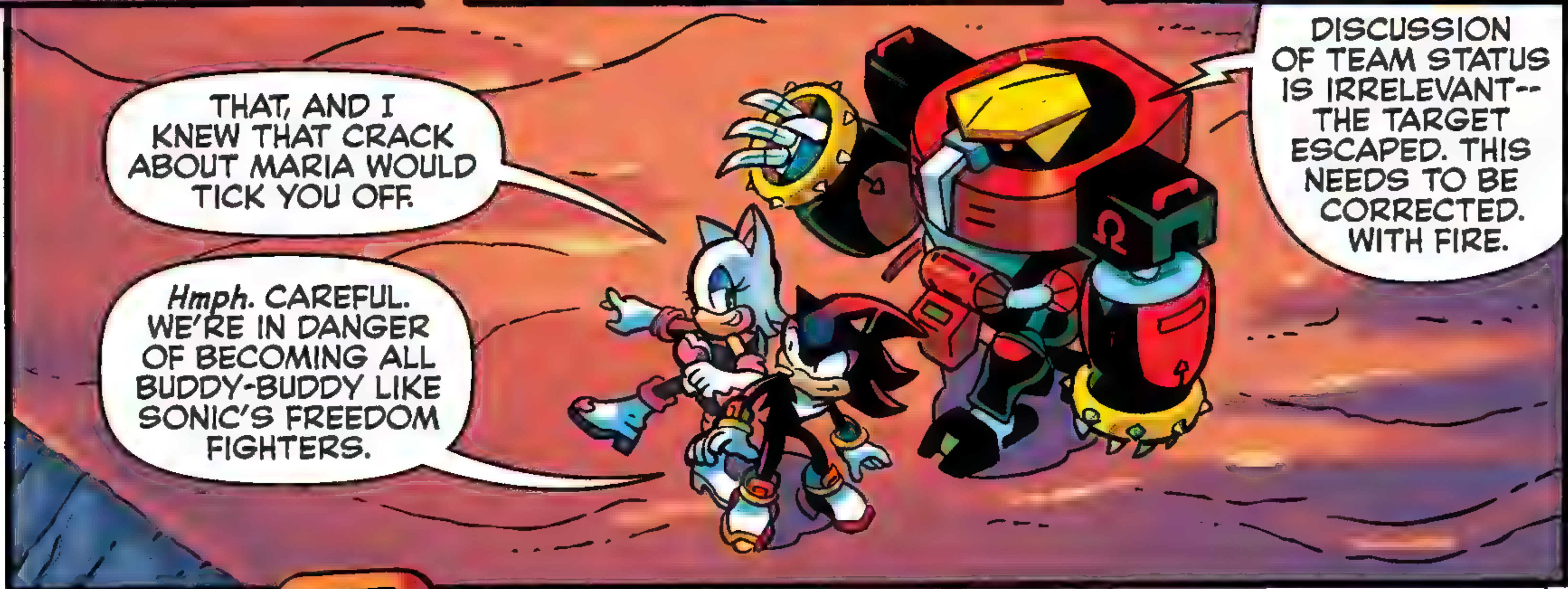
BUT YOU DIDN'T...

...HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T?

BECAUSE... I TRUST YOU.



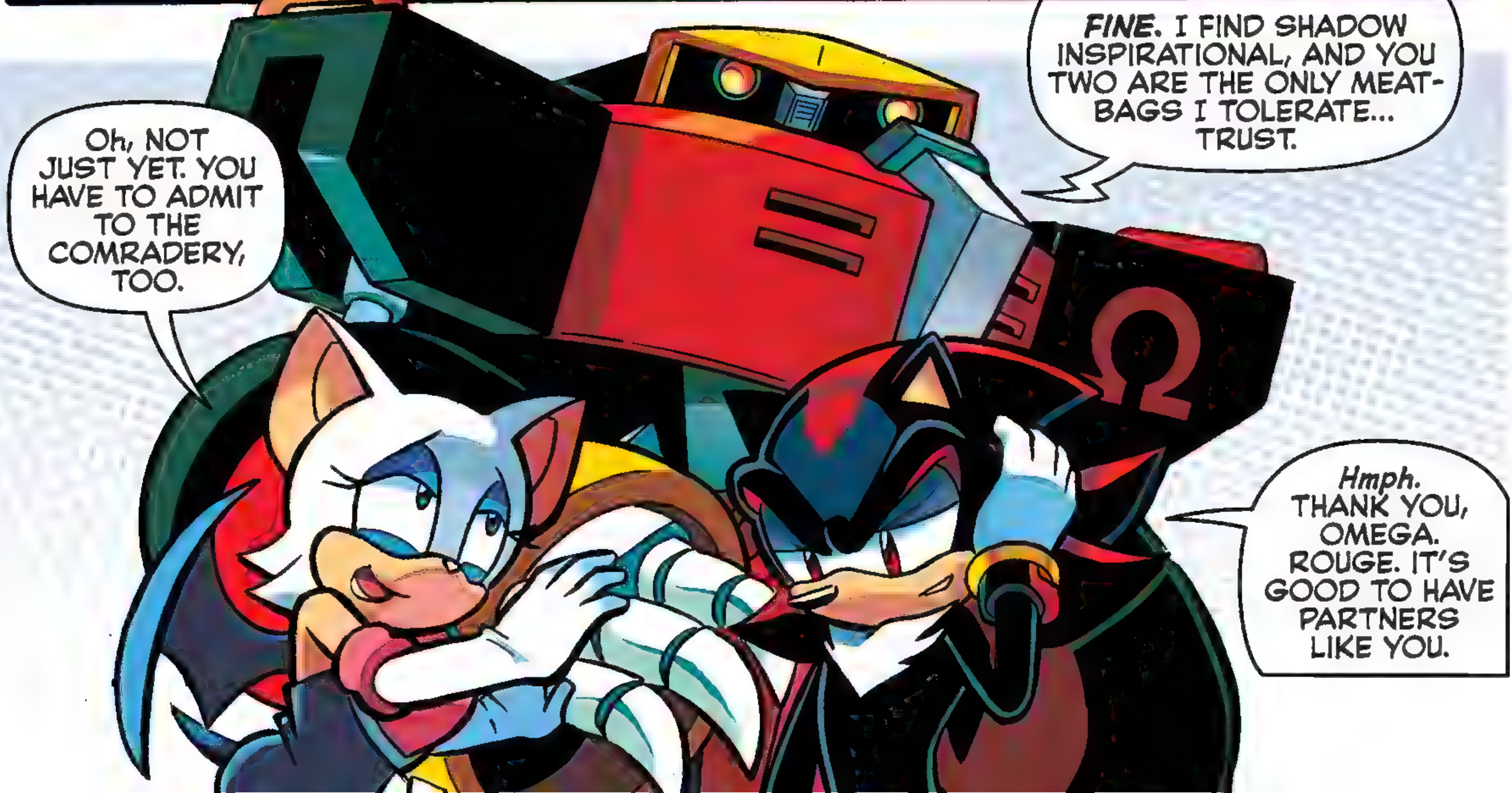
YEAH, THAT'S COMING FROM ME. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER. AND I LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND YOU. YOU'VE GOT MY BACK.



THAT, AND I KNEW THAT CRACK ABOUT MARIA WOULD TICK YOU OFF.

Hmph. CAREFUL. WE'RE IN DANGER OF BECOMING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY LIKE SONIC'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

DISCUSSION OF TEAM STATUS IS IRRELEVANT-- THE TARGET ESCAPED. THIS NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED. WITH FIRE.



Oh, NOT JUST YET. YOU HAVE TO ADMIT TO THE COMRADERY, TOO.

FINE. I FIND SHADOW INSPIRATIONAL, AND YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY MEAT-BAGS I TOLERATE... TRUST.

Hmph. THANK YOU, OMEGA. ROUGE. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE PARTNERS LIKE YOU.

MAY WE RESUME
THE VIOLENT
CONQUEST NOW?

YES. YOU TWO WILL
CHECK ON SPIDER TROUPE
AND THEN ENSURE THE
BOMB IS DEPLOYED.
I WILL...

Oh, NO YOU
DON'T. WE *JUST*
BROKE THE MIND-
CONTROL. YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO RUN
OFF ON YOUR OWN
AND GET CAUGHT
AGAIN.

CONCERN:
THE TRACKING
SIGNAL FOR
SPIDER TROUPE
IS WEAK, AND
THE ALIEN
ARCHITECTURE
IS MAZE-LIKE.
LOCATING THEM
WILL BE
DIFFICULT.

NO. SINCE
BLACK DEATH
GOT INTO MY
HEAD, I'VE
GOT A *MUCH*
STRONGER
CONNECTION
TO THE HIVE-
MIND. I CAN
DIRECT
YOU.

...I WILL ELIMINATE BLACK DEATH,
THEIR LEADER. THAT WILL DRAW THE
BLACK ARMS AWAY FROM YOU.
NOTHING WILL STOP ME
FROM MY REVENGE.

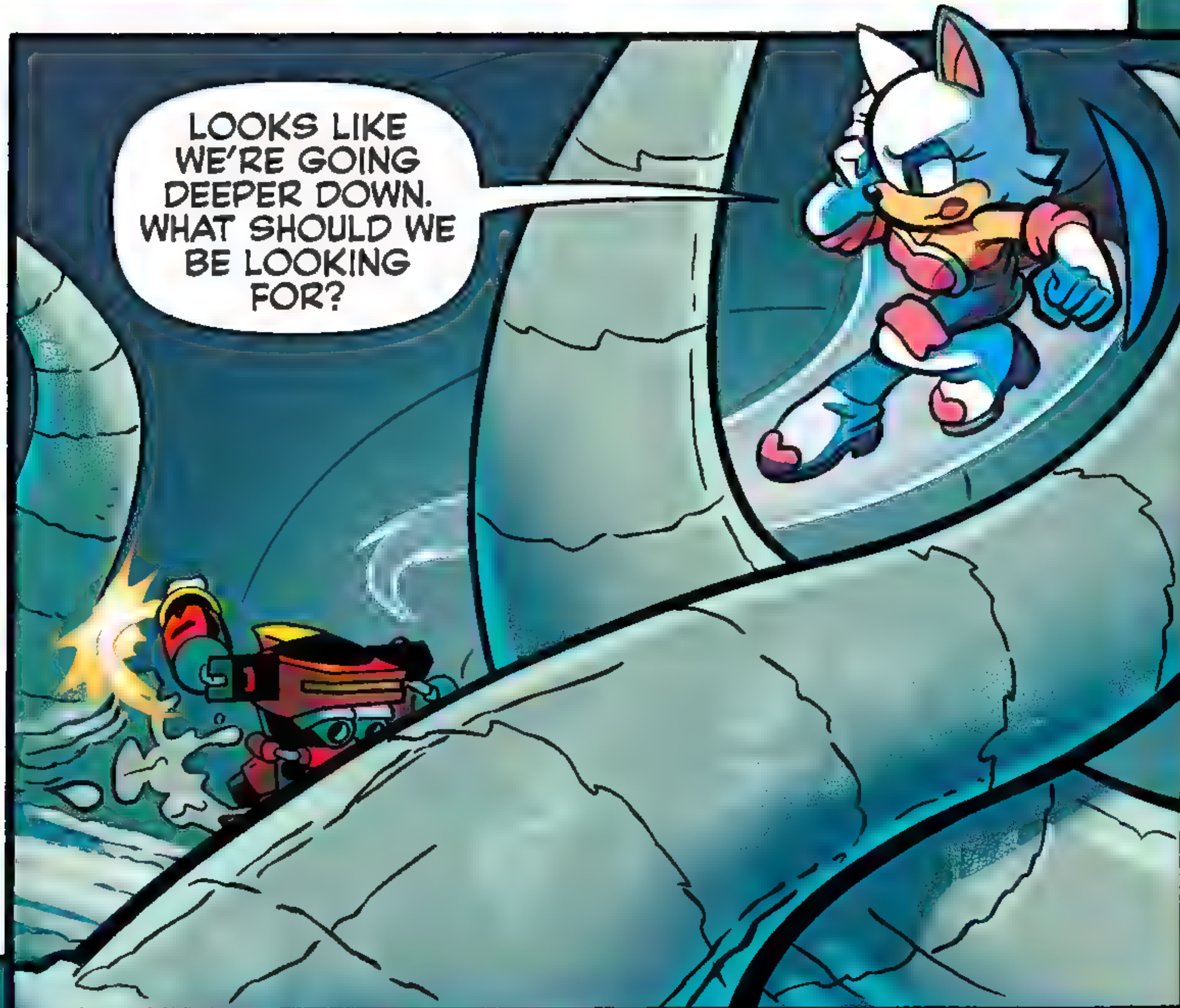
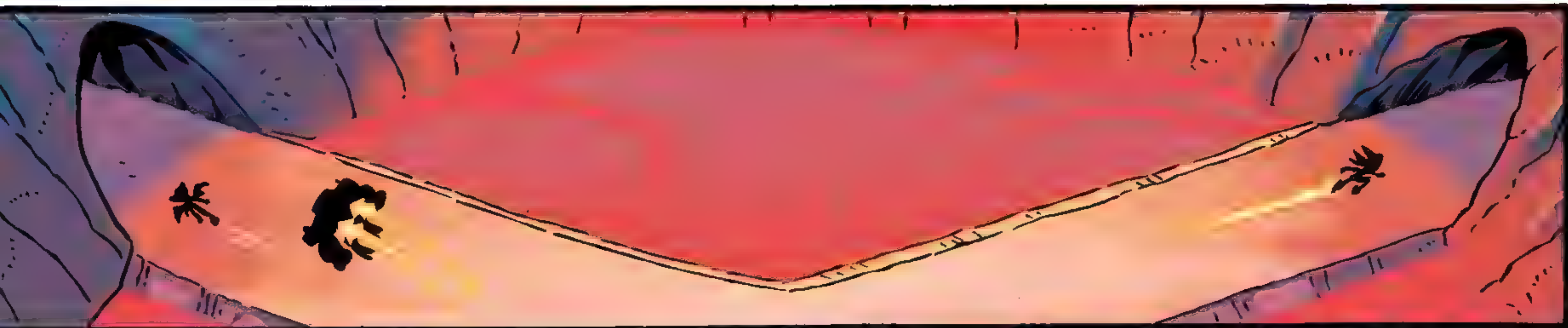
YIKES!
OKAY, I'M
CON-
VINCED!

AS I SAID--
INSPIRATIONAL.

TEAM DARK

**MOVE
OUT!!**



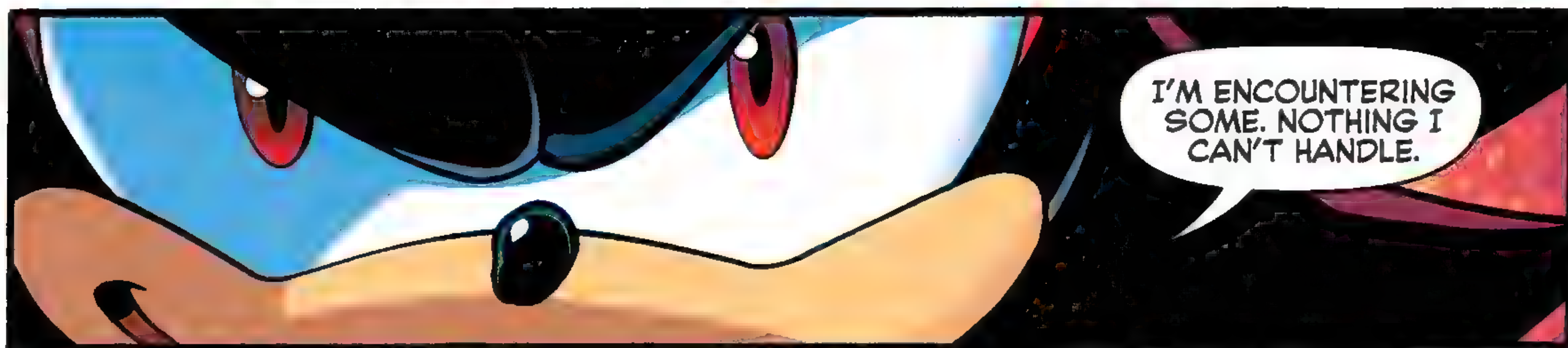


LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING DEEPER DOWN. WHAT SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR?

YOU'LL EXIT INTO A LARGER CHAMBER. LOOK FOR TUNNELS HEADING UPWARDS. THEY SHOULD BE AT ABOUT THREE O'CLOCK FROM YOUR POSITION.

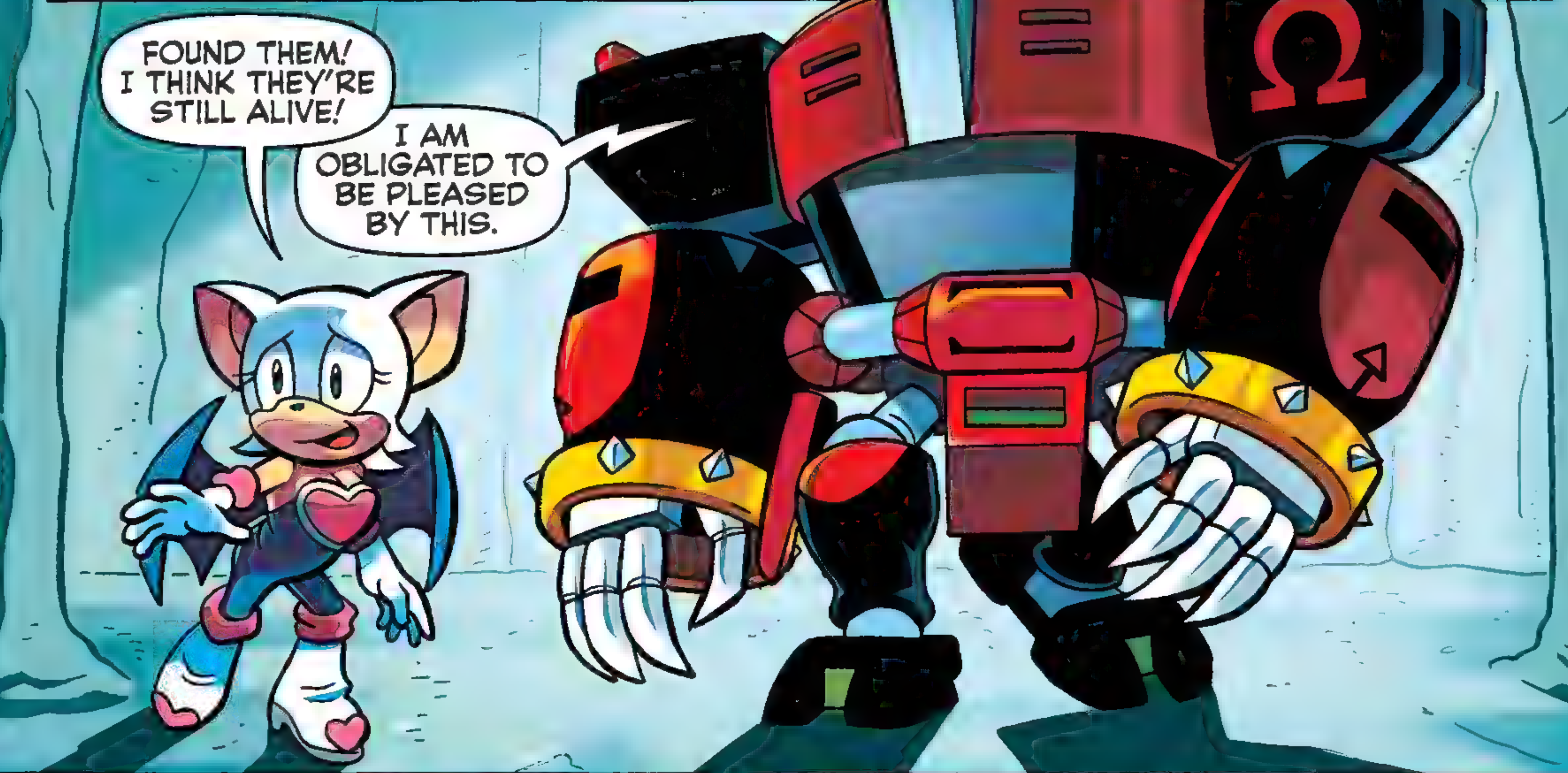


UNDERSTOOD. WE'RE NOT MEETING ANY RESISTANCE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?



I'M ENCOUNTERING SOME. NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.

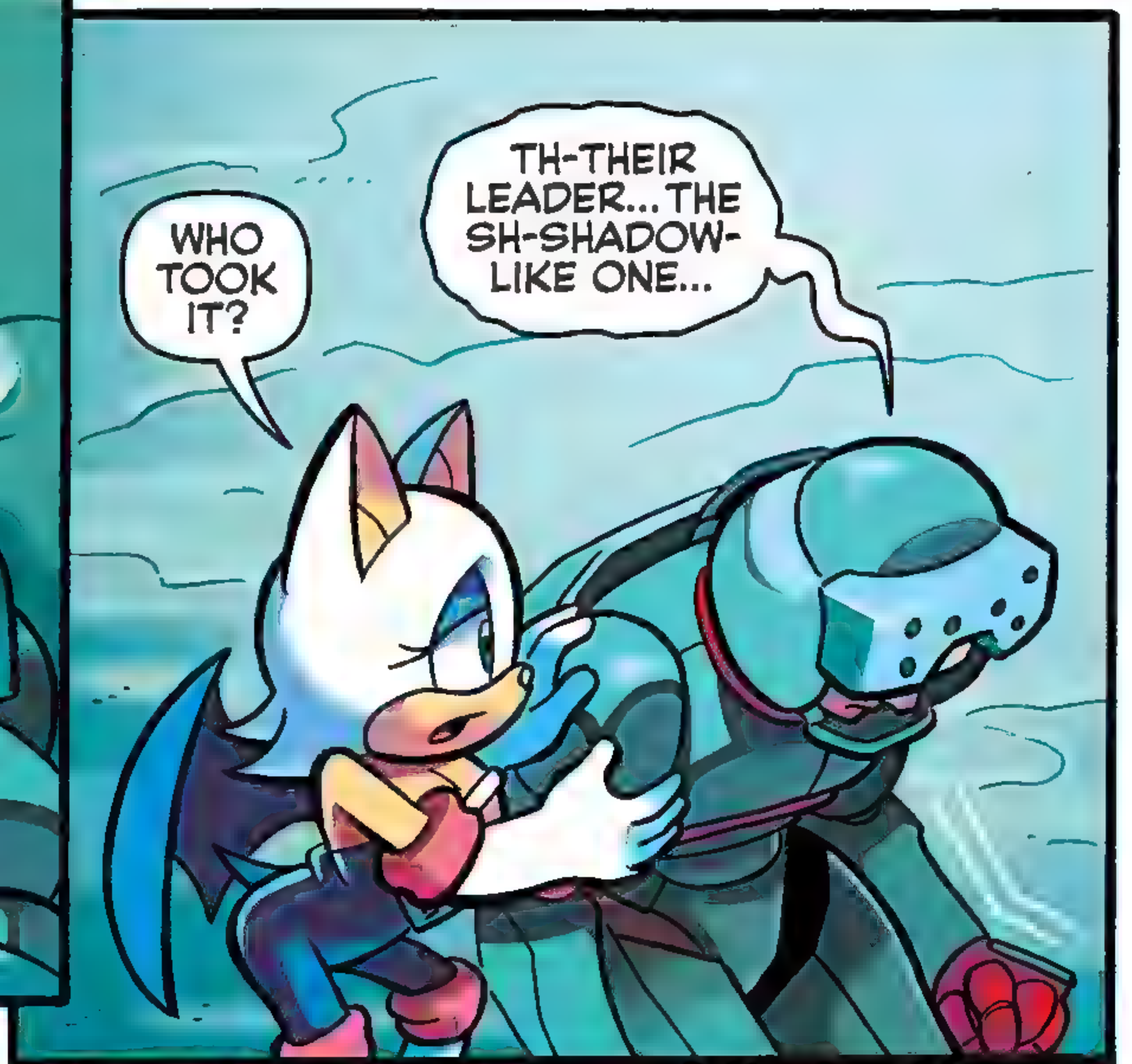






WHERE IS THE GLORIOUS NUCLEAR DEVICE?

H-HE TOOK IT...



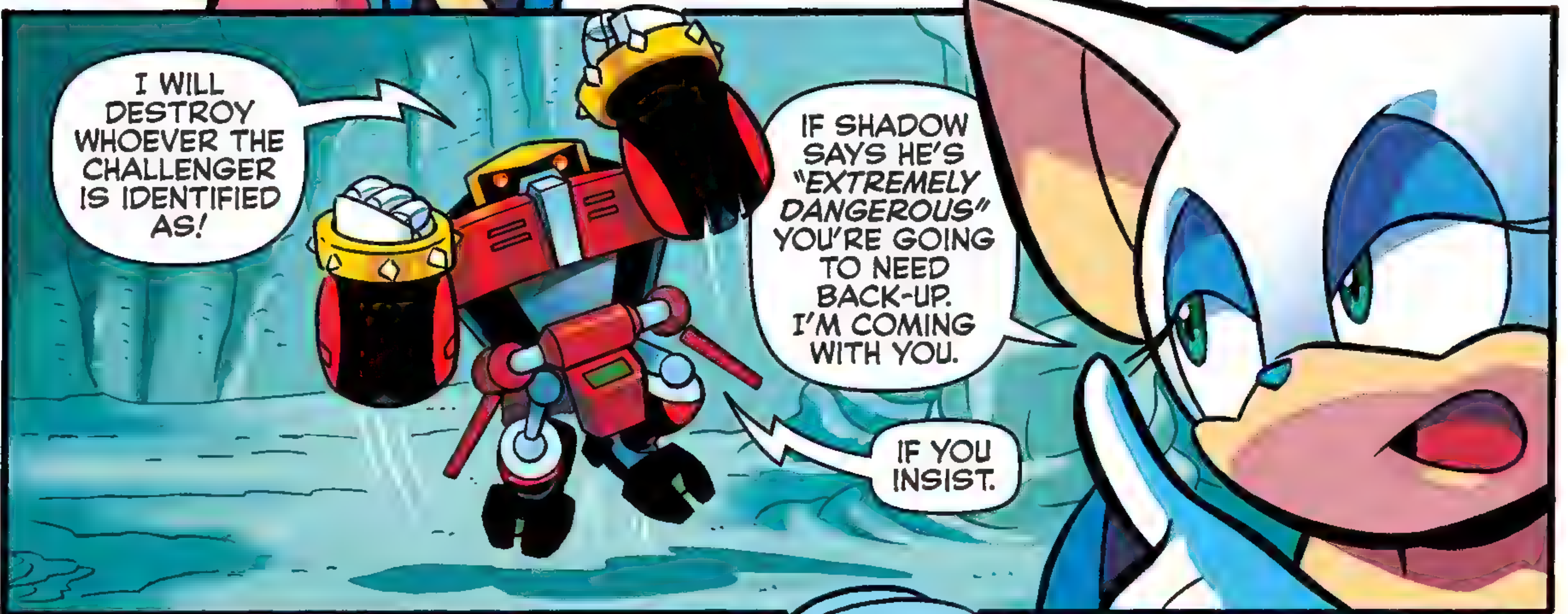
WHO TOOK IT?

TH-THEIR LEADER... THE SH-SHADOW-LIKE ONE...



ROUGE TO SHADOW. SPIDER TROUPE SAYS THE NUKE WAS TAKEN BY THE ALIEN LIKE YOU. WHO IS HE? WHAT IS HE?

ECLIPSE. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. HE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. TAKE HIM OUT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.



I WILL DESTROY WHOEVER THE CHALLENGER IS IDENTIFIED AS!

IF SHADOW SAYS HE'S "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS" YOU'RE GOING TO NEED BACK-UP. I'M COMING WITH YOU.

IF YOU INSIST.

WE CAN'T SPARE ANYONE TO ESCORT YOU BACK. BUT WITH SHADOW HEADING FOR THEIR LEADER, AND OMEGA AND I HEADING FOR THE NUKE, I DOUBT THEY'LL PRIORITIZE RECAPTURING YOU. GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN.

THANK YOU... FOR COMING... FOR US...



CAPTAIN--THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIRECT ROUTE BACK TO THE SHUTTLE. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNING AN AMBUSH EARLIER, BUT THE WAY IS CLEAR NOW. TAKE THE RIGHT FORK AHEAD, THEN FOLLOW THE LEFT-HAND WALL.

OMEGA! ROUGE! ECLIPSE IS SEVEN O'CLOCK FROM YOUR POSITION--A STRAIGHT SHOT. HE HAS A BLACK OAK WITH HIM, IT HAS THE NUKE. HURRY!

WARRIORS--HEAD TO THE DARK ARMS' NURSERY. MOVE THE INCUBATORS TO A SHUTTLE. DO IT QUICKLY.

WAIT, WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE HUMANS ARE NO LONGER CAPTIVE. SHADOW IS FREE OF MY CONTROL AND COMING FOR ME.

WHAT?! BUT I...I THOUGHT WE...WAIT, THEY WERE IN THE NURSERY?! DID THEY HURT THE DARK ARMS? I'LL HUNT THEM DOWN AND RIP--!

THE DARK ARMS ARE UNHARMED. THE BAT-WOMAN AND THE MACHINE ARE HEADING YOUR WAY. DO NOT LET THEM GET THE BOMB.

I...YES, MASTER.

SHADOW!

BLACK DEATH.
JUST LIKE BLACK
DOOM, YOU HIDE
BEHIND THIS
ONE-EYED...
THING.

IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE LIKE
THIS. I EXERTED MY
CONTROL BECAUSE
I DIDN'T THINK YOU
WOULD LISTEN.

THERE IS
NOTHING TO
LISTEN TO.

YOU DON'T
BELONG WITH THE
PEOPLE OF THIS
PLANET! YOU ARE
NOT ONE OF
THEM! YOU NEVER
CAN BE!

I BELONG
NOWHERE. I
HAVE CHOSEN
MY HOME.
MY FATE.

YOU ARE
DOOMING US TO
EXTINCTION!
YOU CANNOT--!

WHAM



AND I WILL!





SHADOW vs. BLACK DEATH

FOR THE FATE OF THE BLACK ARMS!

**ROUGE and OMEGA vs. ECLIPSE
FOR THE CONTROL OF THE BOMB!
EVERYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!
DON'T MISS THE NO-HOLDS-BARRED FINALE
NEXT MONTH!!**

**UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC THE HEDGEHOG,
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST
and the GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!**

**THIS
IS
IT!!!**

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ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK,
NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL:
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Hello cool people, the new Shadow arc looks good so far and I look forward to seeing more action Shadow the Hedgehog style.

Howdy cool person! We're building up to the big conclusion of Shadow's story, but that does not necessarily mean his adventure is over! Keep your eyes peeled for more on the Ultimate Life Form!

Do you have any plans to give Nicole a story arc? If so, that would be awesome.

Nicole has had a very prominent role in the most recent Sonic the Hedgehog storyline, "Countdown to Chaos" and will continue to aid the Freedom Fighters in upcoming issues, so get stoked!

Also if you decide to add Honey the Cat in the comics can she be a hero or at least an anti-hero who's mostly good?

We would love to include some of the more lesser

known characters in some fashion. Stick with Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe to see if your favorites will make an appearance! Extra points to the fan who can tell us which cover Honey the Cat made a cameo appearance on!

Well that's all for now!
From Big Sonic Fan,
Patrick L. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

PS. Ian Flynn has done a great job with the comics so far!

Thanks for writing in, Patrick! Ian sure has! We can't wait to see where Sonic and friends will go next, and with Ian at the helm, it's sure to be a crazy fun ride!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Your Sonic books are awesome! I love them!
Thomas D. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the short and sweet comment, Thomas!

See ya'll next month for the epic conclusion to SHADOW FALL!

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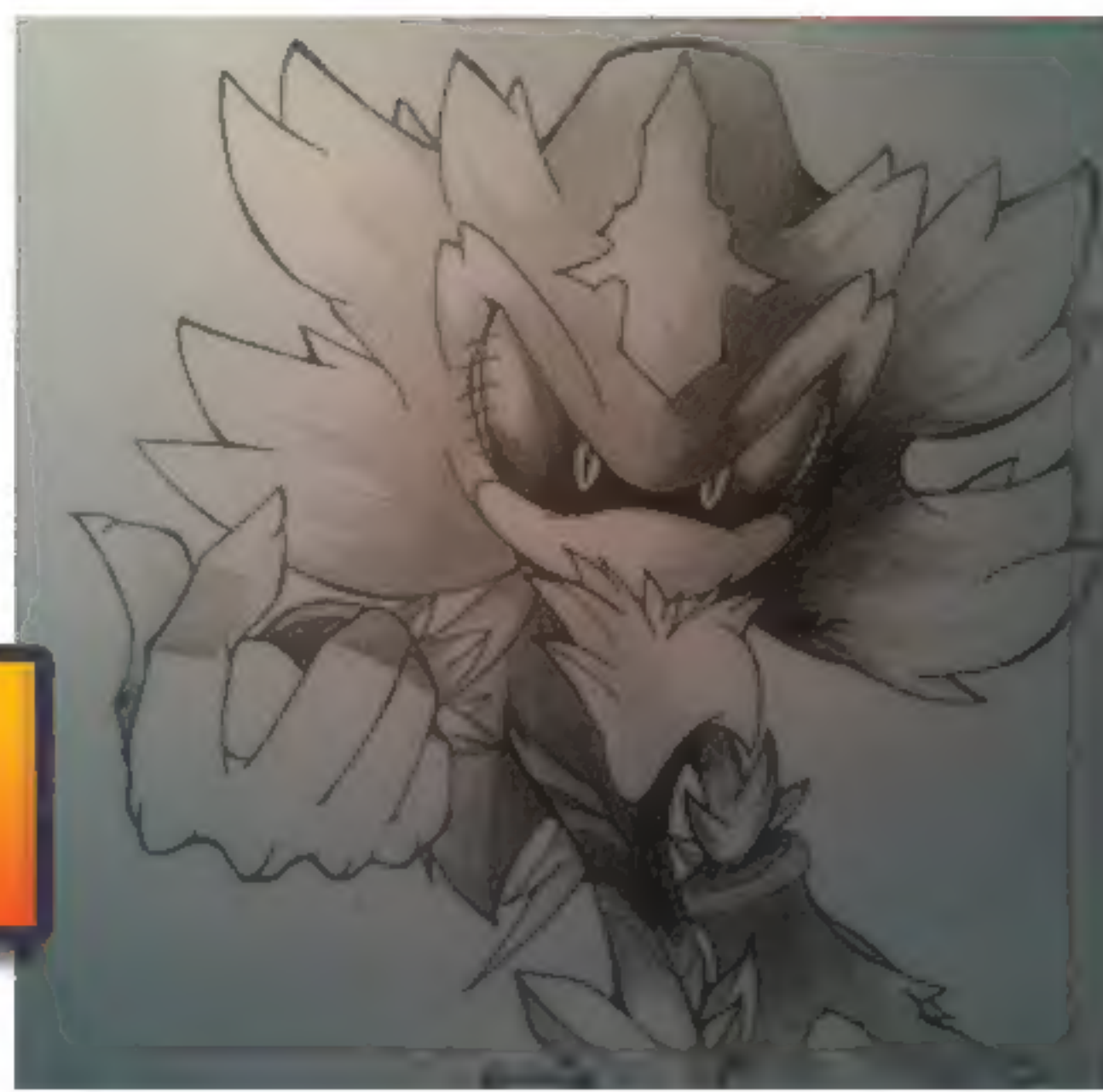
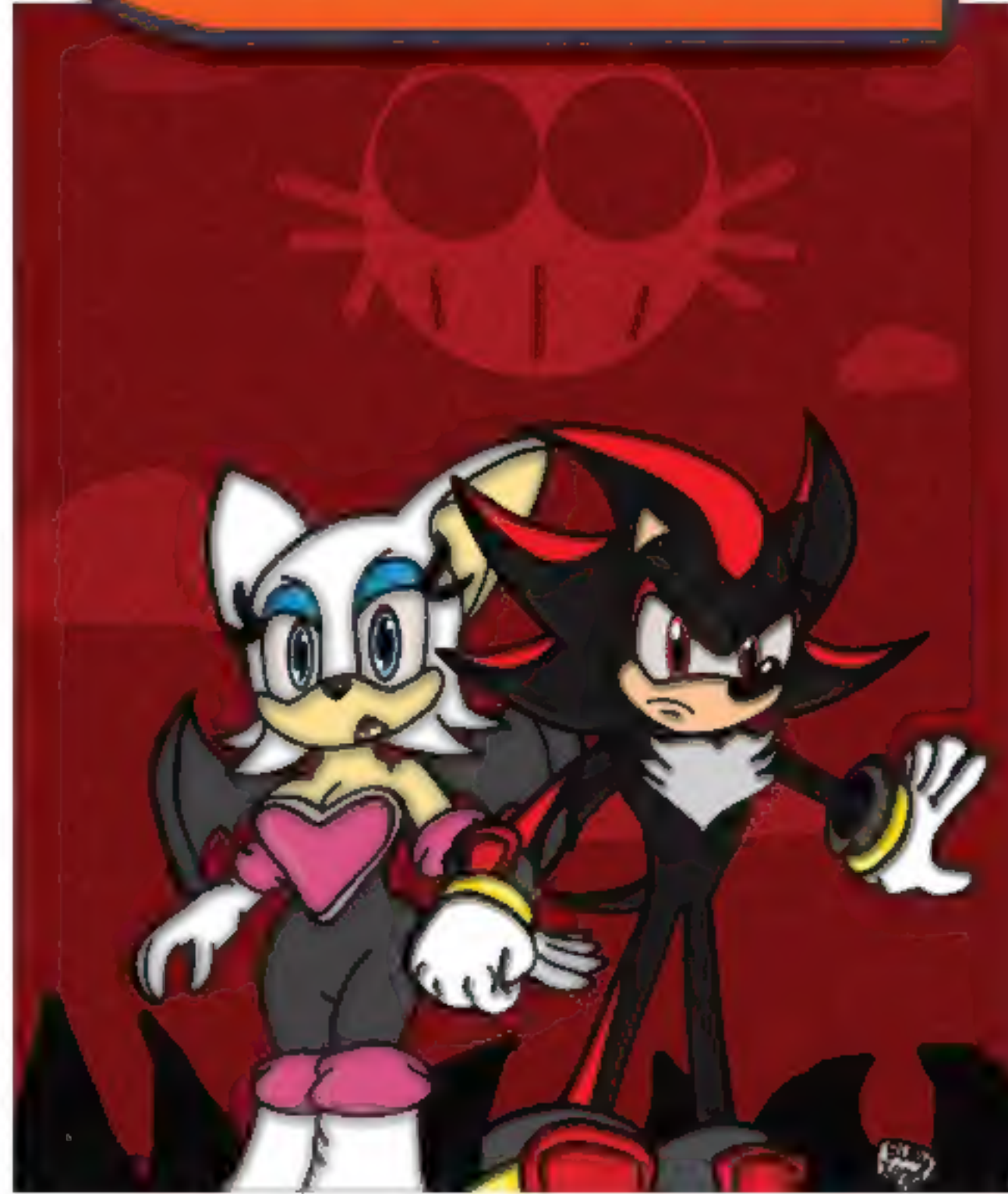
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